## **REMARKS**

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-8 have been amended and newly-submitted Claims 9-15 have been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of the Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

ΒY

Robert M. Barrett Reg. No. 30,142 P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: December 23, 2004